BARMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members,
Barmouth Urban District Council,

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit, herewith, my Report upon the Sanitary Circumstances of the District during 1953.

(1) WATER SUPPLY. - The year passed by without any serious mishap or trouble with the water supply and its distributing system. The need for rationing or curtailing the supply did not arise although we were obliged to operate the boosting plant for two hours or so daily during August and part of September. Had we experienced a prolonged period of drought during the summer months it may have been impossible to maintain a plentiful supply of water.

It has been reported on previous occasions that the distributing system is far from being satisfactory but, up to the present time, nothing has been done to improve matters. The trunk main from the primary source of supply, namely Bodlyn Lake, is not capable of fulfilling the needs of the district during the summer months because of the gradual decreasing of its effective bore through tuberculation. The supply may be temporarily improved by scraping the pipes but such operation cannot be considered very satisfactory. Scraping merely smoothes off the heads of the continually growing rust nodules and it may be safely stated that the effective diameter of the 6 inch main is now only 5 inches, representing a reduction of approximately 30% in the carrying capacity of the pipes.

Thus in order to maintain the supply at its maximum we had to see that the secondary source of supply, namely the Irddyn Lake overflow stream, was kept under proper control. Normally this source is estimated to supply approximately 30 gallons per minute into the Bodlyn main but unfortunately the supply is apt to fail after a period of drought. Thus should we experience a dry summer it is reasonable to expect an acute shortage of water in Barmouth.

During the year the Chlorination Plant became so worn out that it had to be abandoned. This plant was purchased as an emergency measure at the outbreak of the last war and had given satisfactory service during its lifetime. A new Chlorination Plant was ordered but actual delivery did not take place during the year under review.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.- Certain urgent repairs were carried out on the main drainage system of the town during the year. A certain manhole chamber in the main street partly collapsed and a section of the branch sewer was thereby damaged. This caused some considerable amount of back flooding into the basement of a nearby hotel. As the damage occurred during the early summer we could not open up the highway at the time because of the narrow width of the road and the heavy traffic. Thus in order to reduce the nuisance to a minimum the Council workmen had to pump out the contents of the manhole chamber at frequent intervals until such time as the reconstruction work could be carried out.

A new manhole chamber was eventually constructed but other difficulties arose during the re construction of the defective branch sewer. Whilst rodding this pipeline we hit againt an obstruction which prevented the rods being pushed forward. This meant further excavation work at the point indicated and whilst on this work we came across a buried lamp-hole, constructed in 10 inch diameter glazed pipes. We went down to invert level at 9 feet below road level and came across the branch sewer entering the main sewer by means of a 90° bend fitted into a square junction. Needless to say that this junction was entirely silted up. The lamp-hole was replaced by a properly constructed manhole chamber

There are no maps of the main drainage system available other than those prepared by me from information received and from various inspections carried out. These maps are not complete as the manhole chambers in the streets do not in all cases determine the lines of sewers. There are far too few manhole chambers and it seems to me, from experience, that there are many manhole chambers and lamp-holes buried under the road surfaces.

There was nothing to indicate the position or presence of the lamp-hole referred to above. Another instance arose in another part of the town. Here my attention was drawn to a slight indent in the road surface. Breaking through the road crust we came across a large cavity underneath and at the bottom of the cavity, three feet below the surface, we observed an open ended vertical pipe which turned out to be a lamp-hole. The invert of the main sewer was 13'-6" below road level. Further excavation work exposed a second lamp-hole only 1'-6" from the first one and this, although temporarily sealed off at the top, extended down to the main sewer. Various high level sewers and several drains discharged into these two lamp-holes and in one case a drain continued in a vertical shaft down to the low level.

In view of the high cost of constructing a manhole chamber at this point I had no alternative but to patch up the work for the time being. A manhole chamber should be provided to replace this nest of pipes.

The Harbour and Cardigan Bay sewer outfalls received some minor attention during the year but no action was taken regarding the major reconstruction schemes. The Harbour outlet was lowered in order to discharge at the lowest possible position in relation to the ebb tides, whilst the Cardigan Bay outfall was fitted with a new tidal flap valve to replace the existing defective one.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES. - Barmouth already has two modern public conveniences and during the year the Council placed a contract for improving and modernising the Gents Conveniences in Marine Parade. This contract was to be completed by the summer of 1954.

The old dilapidated and insanitary urinal in Park Road was condemned and closed by the Council. The site, leased from the Railway Executive, is being retained probably for the erection of a small modern convenience at a future date.

(3) RIVER AND STREAMS. - There were no cases of river or stream pollution during the year.

(4) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.- There were no conversion of dry or earth closets into Water Closets.

(5) PUBLIC CLEANSING.- The collection and disposal of refuse was carried out as in previous years. During the month of August the fly nuisance became acute on the Refuse Tip and complaints of fly infestation were received from nearby householders. Everything possible was done to abate the nuisance and a casual workman was engaged during the period to ensure the effective covering of all freshly deposited refuse.

(6) SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Total number of inspections.	-	157.
Notices Served - Formal	-	1.
- Informal	-	5.

Inspections.

Bakehouses.	8.
Cowsheds.	10.
Dairies.	4.
Milk Shops.	6.
Ice Cream Premises.	45.
Fried Fish Premises.	8.
Factories.	41.
Restaurants.	4.
Government Slaughterhouse.	16.
Blocked Drain.	15.

Notices served re Defective Drains - Formal -		1.
- Informal -		5.

(6) SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.(Continuation)

Camping Sites.

The number of sites in the area which were used for Camping Purposes during the year.....2.

The number of Camping Sites in respect of which Licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.....1.

No complaints were received from any source relating to either of these Camps.

The estimated maximum number of Campers resident in the Area at any one time during the summer season ...800.

Smoke Abatement.

The Council, on at least two occasions, did draw the attention of the British Railways to the excessive emission of smoke from railway engines whilst they were stationary.

Swimming Baths. - None.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, etc. - No action taken.

Schools - Both the Primary and the Grammar School were kept in a very clean state.

(7) HOUSING.

The four Maisonettes referred to in my previous Report were completed and occupied during the year.

Progress with the erection of 54 houses on the Plasmynach Site was very satisfactory and the position at the end of the year was as follows :-

24 houses roofed and much of the internal work completed.

6 houses were being roofed.

6 houses carried up to eaves level.

12 houses carried up to first floor level, and

6 houses carried up to ground floor level.

No private houses were constructed during the year, although a few plans were submitted and approved by the Council.

The block of 5 tenements known as Williams Buildings and purchased by the Council in 1952 were repaired and, to a certain extent improved. Two of the tenements, one of which was previously vacant, were converted into a single housing unit in order to provide accommodation for the large family occupying the premises. Further improvements to the tenements were considered by the Council.

The Council instructed their Architect to prepare a scheme for the erection of a further 48 houses.

(8) INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1 (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts (excluding Council Houses)..... 30.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 55.

2. (a) Number of dwelling houses included under Sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925..... Nil.

(8) INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR (CONTINUATION).

2 (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....NIL.

3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... 1,Gibraltar Terrace.

4. Number of dwelling houses, exclusive of these referred to under the proceeding Sub-Head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 1, Siloam Buildings.

5. Remedy for Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice..... NIL.

Rendered fit - Informal action by Local Authority or their Officers..... 1, Siloam Buildings.

(9) ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(1) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing act, 1936.

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs..... NIL.

(b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice NIL.

(i) by the owners..... NIL.

(ii) by the Local Authority in default of owners.....NIL.

(2) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs.....1.....

(b) Number of dwelling houses in which defaults were remedied after service of Formal notice,

(i) by the owners..... 1.

(ii) by the Local Authority in default of owners..... NIL

(3) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act,1936.

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....NIL.

(b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....NIL.

(4) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....NIL.

(an undertaking "not to re-let" was accepted in respect of a recently vacated tenement in Gibraltr Terrace. The Council purchased Nos. 1, 2, and 3, Tanygoed Cottages with a view to demolition when vacated. No. 2 is vacant and No. 3 is let on "licence" by the Council to a single person).

(b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.....NIL.

(5) HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART V - OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year..... 5.

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein..... 5.

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein..... 22.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year..... NIL.

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....1

(Partly relieved in Williams Buildings where two tenements were converted into 1 housing unit - see paragraph No. 7).

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases...8.

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.....NIL.

(10) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.- Only a very limited supply of milk produced within the district was sold for human consumption during the year. Three local producers, namely Mr. Robert Owen, Bodfan, Mr. James, Ceilwart Ganol, and Mr. John Jones, Masonic Hall discontinued milk production for human consumption mainly because of the high standards demanded with regards to the construction and maintenance of cowsheds and dairies.

Numerous samples of milk were submitted for analysis and three samples only failed to pass the test appropriate to the grade

(b) ICE CREAM.- Samples of ice-cream were taken periodically and in all cases the results of the analysis were satisfactory.

(c) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. -The Government Slaughterhouse was officially closed during March. It may be assumed that the main reason for this was due to national economy and possibly with a view to centralised slaughtering. Thus since the 5th of March all meat consumed in the district was delivered either from Dolgelley or Machynlleth.

The animals slaughtered at the Barmouth Slaughterhouse during the early part of the year were inspected either during slaughtering or immediately afterwards. Since the new system came into operation meat was inspected at the various meat shops.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep	Pigs.
Number of Animals killed and inspected.	30.	6.	258.	24.
All diseases except Tuberculosis - Whole Carcasses condemned.	1.	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.		unknown quantities.		
Tuberculosis only - whole carcasses condemend.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemend.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.

The total weight of meat condemned, slaughtered at Barmouth, amounted to 575 lbs. The case where the whole carcass was condemened was a cow suffering from general paralysis.

E. IFOR PRICE.

Sanitary Inspector.

BARMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SECTION.A. - GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Urban District 1347

Rateable Value 17056.

Population (Registrar General's figures) 2,320.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate. - £66. 4. 5d.

Number of inhabited houses (according to the Rate Book) at the end of year. 925 approximately.

COMPARABILITY FACOTRS.

Births - .96.

Deaths. - .80.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Nett Births (Live and Still) - 36.

Births(Live) - 35.

Births(Still) - 1.

LIVE BIRTH RATE PER1,000 POPULATION - 15.09.

LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females.
Total.	20.	15.
Legitimate.	19.	15.
Illegitimate.	1.	

Illegitimate Birth Rate (Percentage of Total Live Births)

= 2.86.

DEATHS

Total Number - 33.

Males. 17. Females. 16.

Rate per 1,000population - 14.22.

1952 figures. - 15.72.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR. - Nil. - Total Nil.

Males. Nil. Females. nil.

Total Legitimate - nil.

" Illegitimate.- nil.

Infant Mortality (Rate per 1,000 Live Births) - nil.

1952. figures - 57.14.

Deaths of Legitimate Infants

Mortality (per 1,000 live births) - nil.

Deaths of Illegitimate Infants.

Mortality(per 1,000 live births) - nil.

DEATHS ON INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS. - NIL.

TOTAL Male nil. Female nil.

Legitimate - Nil.

Illegitimate- Nil.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

(Deaths connected with childbirth and pregnancy - Nil.

DEATHS FROM CANCER.

Total - 5.

Rate per 1,000 population - 2.16.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS. - Nil.

Total - Nil.

Rate per 1,000 population - Nil.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(1) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER OF THE AUTHORITY

One Medical Officer of Health.

One Sanitary Inspector holding the appointment of Sanitary Inspector/Surveyor.

(2) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Water analysis(Chemical) carried out by the Public Analyst, Chester.

Water(Bacteriological examination) carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Aberystwyth.

Milk (tests for cleanliness for keeping quality and for tubercule bacilli) at the Public Health Laboratory, Aberystwyth. No charge is made on the Local Authority for these tests.

(3) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

One British Red Cross Ambulance stationed at Barmouth.

(4) INFANT WELFARE CLINICS.

At the English Congregational Chapel Vestry - held twice a month.

(5) ANTE NATAL CLINICS.

At the Cottage Hospital Dolgelley - held twice a month.

(6) ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

Held twice a month at the Cottage Hospital, Dolgelley.

(7), TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC.

Held at the Cottage Hospital, Dolgelley, twice a month.

(8) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health. Immunisation of babies and young children carried out at the Primary School.

(9) HOSPITALS.

The Cottage Hospital, Dolgelley.

(10) INFECTIOUS DIESEASES.

Total number of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year. = 26.

Scarlet Fever - nil.
Bacillary Dysentry- nil.

Whooping Cough - 17.
Measles. - 9.
Infantile Paralysis - nil.

TUBERCULOSIS.	NEW CASES.		
Pulmonary	Total	1.	
	Males nil.	Females	1.
Non-Pulmonary	Total	1.	
	Males nil.	Females	1.

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS. - Nil.

Pulmonary	Total	.
	Males nil.	Females.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1951 in age groups.

Age Periods	New Cases. Respiratory.		New Cases. Non-Respiratory.		Deaths. Respiratory.		Deaths. Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.								
1.								
2.								
5.								
10.								
15.								
20.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35.								
45.								
55.								
65.								
75.								
TOTALS.	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH 1952.

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis Pulmonary.		
Acute Poliomyelitis.		
Cancer Stomach.....	-	1
" Lung.....	-	1
" Breast.....		
" Other Sites.....	3	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	1	5
Coronary disease, angina.....	3	3
Hypertension with heart disease		
Other heart diseases.....	3	4
Other circulatory,disease.....	1	2
Influenza... .		
Pneumonia		
Bronchitis.....	2	
Other diseases of respiratory system		
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum		
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea		
Nephritis and nephrosis		
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	4	
Motor vehicle accidents		
All other accidents		
Suicide		
TOTAL	17.	16.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action taken under Section 47 of this Act.